



OFFICE OF  
**INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**VIA EMAIL**

April 11, 2019

Sam Richards  
MuckRock News  
411A Highland Ave  
Dept. MR 49294  
Sommerville, MA 02144

Re: OIG-2019-00147

Dear Sam Richards:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated April 1, 2019, which was received by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) on the same date. You requested the following information under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552: all Well Control Rule waivers filed between 2016 and current day.

During our review of your request, we identified that if responsive documents existed then they would originate with the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). Therefore, we have referred your request to BSEE and they will issue a response directly to you. You do not have to contact them at this time, but should you need to do so in the future, you may do so at:

Dorothy Tinker (Acting)  
MS-VAE-BSEE FOIA  
45600 Woodland Road  
Sterling, Virginia 20166  
[www:Dorothy.Tinker@BSEE.gov](mailto:www:Dorothy.Tinker@BSEE.gov)

While we do not consider this a denial of your request, if you disagree with this response, you may appeal this response to the OIG's FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you choose to appeal, the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer must receive your FOIA appeal **no later than 90 workdays** from the date of this letter. Appeals arriving or delivered after 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, will be deemed received on the next workday.

**Your appeal must be made in writing.** You may submit your appeal and accompanying materials to the OIG FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer by mail, courier service, fax, or email. All communications concerning your appeal should be clearly marked with the words: "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." You must include an explanation of why you believe the OIG's response is in error. You must also include with your appeal copies of all

correspondence between you and the OIG concerning your FOIA request, including your original FOIA request and the OIG's response. Failure to include with your appeal all correspondence between you and the OIG will result in the OIG's rejection of your appeal, unless the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer determines (in the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer's sole discretion) that good cause exists to accept the defective appeal.

Please include your name and daytime telephone number (or the name and telephone number of an appropriate contact), email address and fax number (if available) in case the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer needs additional information or clarification of your appeal. The OIG FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office Contact Information is the following:

Office of the Inspector General  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
MS-4428  
Washington, DC 20240  
Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office  
Telephone: 202-208-6742  
Fax: 202-219-1944  
Email: [oig\\_foiaappeals@doioig.gov](mailto:oig_foiaappeals@doioig.gov)

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of FOIA. *See* [5 U.S.C. 552\(c\)](#). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

The 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
E-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>  
Telephone: 202-741-5770  
Facsimile: 202-741-5769  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the OIG's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer.

However, should you need to contact me, my telephone number is (202) 208-6464 and the email is [foia@doioig.gov](mailto:foia@doioig.gov).

Sincerely,

*Mildred H. Washington*

Mildred H. Washington  
Government Information Specialist